

We confess that from the correctness of some of the professor's opinions we widely dissent, and should be inclined to set down others rather as ingenious surmises, than as legitimate inferences from well-established facts. In the general views he has advanced in relation to morbid action we find, however, much more to praise than to condemn.

Professing to base his pathological deductions strictly upon data drawn from the physiology of the human organism, Professor Fanzago, as may be inferred, is in the correct sense of the term a vitalist—with him all morbid phenomena, however diversified in their character, are produced by a derangement of the natural functions of the several organs of the system. He is an advocate likewise of the doctrine which refers to all diseases a local origin—which teaches, in other words, that disease consists primarily in the modification of the vitality of one or more organs; the general symptoms by which they are in certain cases accompanied being dependent upon, or at least kept up by lesions often of very limited extent.

While we consider these points as essential to a correct system of pathological doctrines, we by no means wish to be understood as admitting a recognition of them to be alone an evidence of its accuracy. In the work before us, many, in our opinion, important errors occur in those details the most intimately connected with the points referred to.

It is not our intention on the present occasion to offer any thing farther than a general notice of the work of Professor Fanzago; to enter into an examination of his doctrines, even of those which may be considered as peculiar to himself, would require more time and space than we can at present afford. We recommend the work, however, to our readers as a very useful and interesting manual of general pathology, and one calculated, in our opinion, to excite them to study the more recent works of the Italian physicians, which, considering their real value, are certainly too much neglected by the members of our profession in this country.

D. F. C.

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*XXVIII. Popular Physiology; being a familiar Explanation of the most interesting facts connected with the Structure and Functions of Animals, and particularly of Man, adapted for general readers.* By PENELOPE B. Lonn, M. B., M. R., C. S. of the Bombay Medical Establishment. Published under the direction of the Committee of General Literature and Education, appointed by the Society for promoting Christian knowledge. London, 1834. 12mo. pp. 500.

We view with no little pleasure each new attempt that is made to render popular the study of physiology. In all that relates to his own organization and the vital laws to which it is subjected, every member of the human family has a deep and abiding interest—many of the most pernicious errors and customs of society, in relation to education, dress, occupation, food and drink, and the location and construction of dwellings, as well as to the opinions entertained in regard to the means of preventing and curing diseases, have their rise mainly in an ignorance of the various functions of the living system, the influence which they reciprocally exert upon each other, and the manner in which they are acted upon by external agents. It is at least certain that the errors and customs to which we allude can only be effectually removed, by

causing the study of physiology to enter as an essential item into every scheme of general education. We are indeed somewhat surprised that so important a branch of natural philosophy should have been so long allowed to remain the sole property of the medical profession.

The system of popular physiology of Mr. Lord is a very interesting and excellent manual of the science, and well adapted for the purpose for which it is professedly published, the instruction, namely, of the general reader.

"To investigate the laws of animated nature," remarks the author in his second chapter; "to trace the plant from the seed, or the animal from the ovum; to observe them developing the qualities, or performing the duties to which they have been destined by an all-wise Creator; to inquire into the beautiful structure and arrangement of organs by which they are enabled to 'live and have their being;' to notice their rise, progress, and gradual decay, from the time that, radiant with youth and beauty, they spring up to life and the light of day, until, exhausted and worn out, their appointed time being come, they again return to the earth 'whence they were taken.' Such are the interesting, the all-absorbing objects of a science that has hitherto been considered too dull and abstract to engage the attention of general readers, too theoretical and inconclusive to extend beyond the schools of medical philosophy.

"That in the pursuit of physiological knowledge there are many difficulties to be overcome, it is not attempted to deny. 'The Gods,' says the old poet, 'have placed labour and toil in the way leading to the Elysian fields.' But many of these difficulties arise from the subject being enveloped in technical language, and interspersed with technical details, interesting only to the profession for which works on this subject have hitherto been composed. The habit, too, of presupposing a knowledge of anatomy, which general readers cannot be supposed to possess, has increased the obstacles that lay in the way of this proper study of mankind."

In the present little work, an attempt has been made to obviate some of the above difficulties. The prominent facts of the science are stated, as far as is practicable in familiar language. Anatomical details are introduced to the extent necessary for understanding the physiological matters under consideration, and well executed wood-cuts are resorted to whenever they can be made an efficient mode of explanation.

D. F. C.

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XIX. *Essays and Lectures on Medical Subjects.* By JOHN P. HARRISON, M. D. Professor of Materia Medica in the Cincinnati College. Philadelphia, 1835. 12mo. pp. 192.

These essays and lectures are evidently the productions of an active and vigorous mind—a mind nevertheless, that we should shrewdly suspect, is a *little* more fond of general declamation than of a course of close inductive reasoning; a mind we fear more ready to join in the sneer at modern theories in physiology and medicine as too fanciful and hypothetical, than to sit down industriously to their investigation, and to test their accordance with the facts and arguments adduced in their support. It is this perhaps which has led the author not unfrequently into the error of attributing absurdities to doctrines to which they have no other relation, excepting that created by his own imagination, and of setting down as opposed by experience that which in fact, all experience confessedly establishes.